



FEMA

Press Release

November 3, 2006

RV NR-06-29

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LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP LEADS TO \$13 MILLION IN DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Monday Marks One Year after Devastating Evansville Tornado

CHICAGO – In the early morning hours of Sunday, Nov. 6, 2005, a deadly F3 tornado crossed southern Indiana near Evansville. Local first responders immediately deployed to the scene to respond to the emergency. Establishing the Vanderburgh County Emergency Operations Center as a command center, local first responders and county and state emergency management officials conducted search and rescue operations and assessed damages. The American Red Cross dispatched volunteers to assist in the immediate needs of feeding and sheltering tornado victims.

After declaring a state emergency in the area, Governor Mitch Daniels requested a Presidential disaster declaration, based on damages estimated to be beyond local and state recovery resources. Within 48 hours of the tornado, President Bush issued a disaster declaration for Vanderburgh and Warrick counties, opening the way for more than \$13 million in federal and state disaster assistance for individuals and local governments.

Tornado Facts and Assistance Figures

- The destructive path of the tornado covered an area more than 400 yards wide and 40 miles long and the tornado's maximum wind speed was estimated at 200 mph.
- There were 25 confirmed fatalities as a result of the storm, and more than 200 people were injured. (Two victims died from injuries more than a month after the storm.)
- The majority of deaths occurred in a mobile home park on the southeast side of Evansville, where more than 100 homes were destroyed and another 125 damaged.
- The American Red Cross opened two shelters for tornado victims in the affected area. Emergency response vehicles (ERVs) and fixed kitchens served more than 4,000 meals to disaster response workers, utility and clean-up crews, and residents in the 48 hours immediately following the tornado.

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Federal and state disaster assistance coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of the disaster declaration included:

- \$304,551 in Housing Assistance grants provided to 111 applicants to help pay for temporary housing and repairs to make the home habitable
- \$573,776 In Other Needs Assistance grants provided to 182 applicants to cover other needs related to the disaster, such as funeral and medical expenses, loss of personal property and transportation
- \$8,966,600 in U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans, including a total of \$8,694,200 in loans for 144 homeowners and \$272,400 for six businesses
- \$3,312,302 in Public Assistance grants provided to local governments in the two counties, with the majority of the grants funding debris removal and emergency protective measures

For specific information on ways to lessen the impact of future tornado disasters, log on to www.fema.gov. Information regarding wind-resistant construction techniques and safe rooms can be found at www.fema.gov/rebuild/mitigation.shtm.

Editors Note: Pictures relating to the Evansville tornado of Nov. 6, 2005, can be found at www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/index.jsp

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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